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SHORT COMMUNICATION

Crossocerus vagabundus (Panzer) (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae) in Wales-This is the rarest of our four black and yellow Crossocerus species, holding RDB1 status. In the past this species was widespread, if local, in the south of England and had been recorded from 25 vice-counties (Falk, 1991). It has not been reported as occurring in Wales. In 1953 it was recorded from Parley Heath. Dorset and was not recorded again until recently, when the species was found at a number of sites in Hampshire. The species is associated with damp lushly vegetated areas where it preys upon craneflies. Nesting occurs in dead wood, often in the galleries of beetle larvae (Falk, 1991). On the 7.viii.1998, while collecting in birch scrub along the margins of Crymlyn Bog (SS687943), Glamorgan, specimens of Crossocerus dimidiatus (Fab.) and C. quadrimaculatus (Fab.) were collected. Whilst determining the specimens taken, a single male C. vagabundus (Panzer) was found amongst the C. quadrimaculatus. Superficially to the naked eye it looked very like C. quadrimaculatus and certainly was not noticed to be anything other than that species in the field.—P. M. PAVETT. Department of Biodiversity and Systematic Biology, National Museum and Galleries of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff CF1 3NP.

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